



LUZIE HINGLEY

Elizabeth Mary Bryan

Paediatrician specialising in multiple births who wrote objectively about her family's oncogene

Elizabeth Bryan's work improved the care of children who were multiple births and helped their parents. She founded Tamba, the Twins and Multiple Birth Association, and twin clinics in London, Birmingham, and York. She came from a family with a predisposition for bipolar disorder and a particularly deadly variant of the BRCA1 gene.

Elizabeth Mary Bryan was born in Yorkshire; her father was a Conservative MP and party vice chairman, having started life working in the family clothing firm. She had sisters three and six years younger; both were to develop breast cancer.

Elizabeth had several defining moments

in her life. The first was at the age of 6, when she saw a film about African children in hospital. That convinced her that she must be a children's doctor, and she never wavered. As a teenager she loved being with children.

From Benenden School she went to St Thomas's but took a year out to look after her mother, who had developed bipolar disorder. She did her house jobs in Scarborough and York to be near her mother, who subsequently drowned in a hotel swimming pool. Later, a niece developed bipolar disorder and drowned.

Her second turning point was in 1973, when she was a registrar at Hammersmith Hospital. She delivered twins: one a ruddy 3 kg, and the other pale and undersized. This was her first encounter with the twin-twin transfusion syndrome, and it determined her career as a paediatrician specialising in the problems of multiple births.

She became senior registrar and research fellow at Hammersmith before returning in 1975 to York as senior medical officer and clinical assistant in paediatrics.

In 1975, when she was still single, a distant relative wrote to tell her that the family carried a tendency to ovarian or breast cancer. There had been eight deaths, and the age at onset was getting younger. The letter made little impact on her initially.

She married Ronald Higgins, a diplomat and journalist, when she was 36; 25 pairs of twins formed the guard of honour. She had a miscarriage a year later and failed to conceive again, despite an attempt at in vitro fertilisation; she and Ronald wrote a book for couples, *Infertility—New Choices, New Dilemmas* (1995). That same year her younger sister, Bunny (Bernardette), died of ovarian cancer aged 43. Elizabeth and her middle sister, Felicity, both underwent oophorectomy. When Felicity developed cancers in both breasts, Elizabeth had a double mastectomy, and the problems she had with her prostheses make a cautionary tale. Felicity survived her breast cancers and a melanoma. Elizabeth published an acclaimed memoir about the cancer in her family, *Singing the Life* (2007).

During 1981-7 she was senior clinical medical officer for Herefordshire health authority. At various times in her career she worked in Australia, Zimbabwe, and South Korea, and she lectured around the globe.

Elizabeth devoted her career to helping parents. She founded the parents of twins club in York, and in 1978 co-founded the Multiple Births Association. She was its president until 1984 and a trustee until 1991. She founded the Multiple Births Foundation and directed it until 1998, when she became president. She was also president of the International Foundation for Twin Studies. She campaigned for single embryo transfer in infertility treatment and lived to see it introduced. She was an expert witness in many court cases concerning multiple births. She was a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, and of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health.

She wrote two paediatric books for professionals: *Special Needs of Twins and More* (with Faith Hallett) (1999) and *The First Five Years* (2001). She also wrote two books for parents: *Twins in the Family* (1984) and *Twins, Triplets and More* (1st edition 1992), which was translated into seven languages.

Elizabeth was loved for her charm, good nature, sympathetic and caring personality, dry sense of humour, and great capacity to listen and learn from parents.

When her husband was composing a tribute he asked friends for her faults as well as her virtues: the worst anyone could say was that she was head-girlish. A midwife colleague at Queen Charlotte's said, "She was humanitarian. She looked at things people hadn't thought of, like the care of the weakest twin and exhaustion in mothers. She was sensible, kind, and forward thinking. She was quiet, and gentle with a dry humour. She was never critical. We learnt so much from her, like putting distressed newborn twins in the same cot so they could be close, as they had been in the womb."

In 2005 Elizabeth diagnosed herself with biliary obstruction and realised it was pancreatic cancer. Ronald and her 14 god-children survive her.

Caroline Richmond

Elizabeth Mary Bryan, consultant paediatrician, Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospitals; research fellow, senior lecturer, and reader in paediatrics, Imperial College, London (b 1942; q St Thomas's 1966; DCH, MD, FRCP, FRCPH), d 21 February 2008.

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Shanmuga Bhaskar



Transplant surgeon Chennai Transplant Centre and Research Foundation, Chennai, India (b 1960; q Madras, India, 1984; FRCS), died from metastatic transitional carcinoma of the kidney on 28 November 2007. Shanmuga Bhaskar ("Bhaskie") initially trained as a surgeon in Madras (Chennai), coming to the United Kingdom in 1986 and gaining his FRCS in 1988. After registrar jobs in south Yorkshire and the west of Scotland, he was transplant fellow at the University of South Carolina during 1994-6. He set up the Chennai Transplant Centre and Research Foundation with colleagues in the Madras Medical Mission. The first in India to perform small bowel transplantation, he was also one of the first to perform liver transplantation using a living donor. He founded and was secretary of the Indian Society of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition. He leaves a wife, Barathi, and two children.
Peter Moses

Raymond Aubrey Bush

Former general practitioner Ashford, Kent (b 1918; q Guy's Hospital, London, 1943; DRCOG, MRCP), died from bronchopneumonia following a urinary tract infection on 8 March 2008. After qualifying, Raymond Aubrey Bush was called up to the Royal Army Medical Corps and served with the 15th Scottish Infantry Division, landing in Normandy a few days after D Day and being one of the first doctors to witness Belsen. After house and resident posts, he joined another general practitioner in Ashford, Kent. He expanded the practice, one of the first to employ women doctors, and

introduced cardiography, eventually commissioning a new surgery to accommodate the increase in staff. An early member of the Royal College of General Practitioners, he was also a member of the local postgraduate centre committee and chairman of the BMA committee. He leaves three children and five grandchildren.
Gillian White

James Michael Allis Critchley

Former general practitioner Harrogate (b 1923, q Leeds 1948; DOBstRCOG), died from multi-infarct dementia on 25 March 2008. Born and brought up on a farm, James Michael Allis Critchley ("Michael") was educated at Charterhouse and at Leeds University, where he met his future wife, Isobel. After national service in Germany, he became established in general practice in Harrogate, then took early retirement at 60 to pursue his interest in farming. He served as mayor of Pateley Bridge in North Yorkshire for two separate terms, and was church warden at Wilsill church in Nidderdale for several years. He leaves Isobel, five children and an adopted niece, and 16 grandchildren.
Peter Critchley, Sarah Pillai

Louis Greenbaum



Former general practitioner Bethnal Green and Sydenham (b 1912; q The London 1936), d 7 March 2008. The son of poor Polish immigrants, Louis Greenbaum won a state scholarship to study medicine. On qualification, he set up a singlehanded practice in Bethnal Green. He volunteered at the start of the second world war but was not called up until 1941, so he worked on throughout the Blitz. He served in India and was demobilised a

major, then becoming one of the founding general practitioners of the NHS. In 1972, after over 32 years in Bethnal Green, he moved his practice to Sydenham. He retired at the age of 76 after 53 years in medicine, immediately enrolling at Goldsmith's College to study philosophy. In his 80s he bobsledded in Iceland, and learnt to body surf in Australia. He leaves a wife, Lavinia; a son; and a granddaughter.
Adam Greenbaum

Arthur Lester Lawrence



Former general practitioner Hartlepool (b 1930; q Leeds 1955), died from pneumonia on 24 January 2008. After qualifying and preregistration posts in Leeds, Arthur Lester Lawrence did his national service in the Royal Air Force. He then served as a trainee general practitioner in York before practising in Hartlepool, where he worked for nearly 40 years. He was also a clinical assistant in the town's maternity hospital. Arthur had a great love of the outdoors and was widely read with special interests in history, world events, and astronomy. He leaves a wife, Maureen; three children; and six grandchildren.
D H Jones

Thomas Anderson McAllister

Former consultant microbiologist Royal Hospital for Sick Children and Queen Mother's Hospital Glasgow (b 1936; q Glasgow 1959), d 28 November 2007. After qualification, Thomas Anderson McAllister ("Tom") trained in bacteriology under Professor (later Sir) James Howie. He did research on urinary tract infection and the use of hyperbaric oxygen in anaerobic infection. In 1967



he was appointed consultant in Glasgow. Laboratory-based but never laboratory-bound, he published on antibiotics and paediatric infections and, with his clinical colleagues, ran a comprehensive and effective control of hospital infections service. At the age of 24, Tom developed a severe and progressive neurological disease, but he tackled increasing disabilities to continue his clinical and teaching work. He leaves a wife, Catherine; two children; and three grandchildren.
Morag C Timbury

David James Rhodes



Former general practitioner Harrold, Bedfordshire (b 1939; q Guy's Hospital, London, 1966; DOBstRCOG, MRCP, FRCP), d 15 December 2007. David James Rhodes left school at 16 for a printing apprenticeship, later switching to medicine through the 1st MB. His student elective with the Red Cross in an African war zone included imprisonment in a Yemeni jail. He opted for professional independence in general practice, eventually settling in Harrold and taking both parts of the MRCP from his practice—a rare achievement. He retired early from full time medicine, largely because of what he saw as retrograde changes to the way medicine was being delivered. He pursued the Atlantic salmon and well man screening with equal vigour. He leaves a wife, Jane, and three children.
Diana Siggers, George Oswald, John Rochford